

A Collection of Good Works by the Pensacola State College Foundation

COMPENDIUM

Fall 2010

INSIDE:

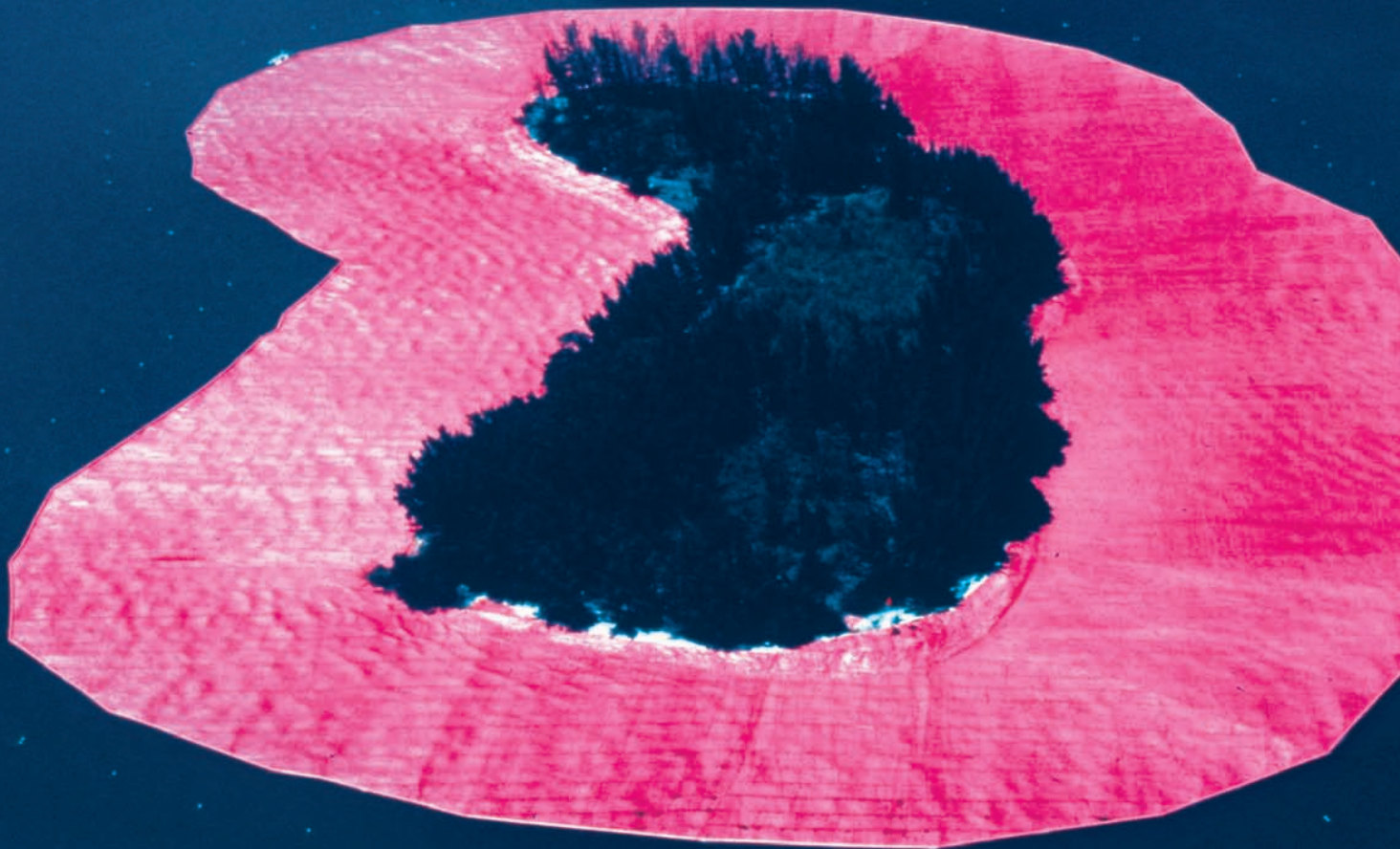
Works of World-Famous Artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude come to the Switzer Gallery

Making a Difference with Melba Meyer Grant

Remembering Ted Ciano

Robinson Honors Program Celebrates 10 Years of Success

Alumnus Opens Rockin' Blues Cafe



FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PAM HUNT CADDELL
Foundation President

The vital role of community colleges has been gaining attention across the nation. In October, an historic White House Summit heralded community colleges as the “unsung heroes” of America’s higher education. Pointing out that the country’s 1,200 community colleges educate almost half the nation’s undergraduates, the summit called for new ways for businesses and community colleges to work together and for new ways to bolster financial-aid for deserving students.

As a proud alumna (along with my five sisters and three sons) of Pensacola State College, I’ve experienced first-hand the value of a community college education. Over the years, I’ve watched my alma mater grow in programs and facilities, eventually growing from Pensacola Junior College into Pensacola State College. These are exciting times for Pensacola State College. In recent months the college has embraced its new name, added work force bachelor’s degrees and has broken ground on a new South Santa Rosa Center.

More than ever before, Pensacola State College is moving forward to fill an important need in our community by providing top-notch, affordable education in areas that lead to productive careers. You can take part in this exciting progress through your gifts for scholarships, technology, programs and professional development. When you consider year-end giving, please join me in making Pensacola State College a priority.

Pensacola State College is close to my heart and I am honored to take the helm of the Foundation Board of Governors. Working together, we can build on past success and make the next two years the best yet.

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On the Cover: *Surrounded Islands* by Christo and Jeanne-Claude; Biscayne Bay, Florida, 1980s. Photo by Wolfgang Volz. © CHRISTO 1983

COMPENDIUM

The award-winning Compendium is published for alumni and friends of Pensacola State College.

NEED INFORMATION? PLEASE CALL!

College Development & Alumni Affairs and Foundation staff are here to assist you. You may reach us at (850) 484-1560.

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The Pensacola State College Foundation, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation that has been established to encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts and bequests of property and funds for benefit of the college and college activities. The Foundation is administered by a board of governors made up of members of the community who have an interest in the college.

The Foundation promotes the annual giving program of the college and solicits funds for various projects which the college cannot otherwise fund. In addition, donations are sought for scholarships and other worthwhile projects which assist Pensacola State College and its students.

As a tax-assisted institution, Pensacola State College cannot meet all needs with state and student support. The Foundation assists in obtaining private support to supplement college budgets. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax deductible non-profit corporation and a direct support organization chartered by the state of Florida to provide private support to the college.



Wrapping Up: Works by Christo and Jeanne-Claude

The Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts is proud to present the exhibition, Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Prints and Objects, Jan. 24 — March 25.

Avant-garde artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude have created some of the most spectacular large-scale artworks of the 20th century. The husband and wife team wrapped in fabric the Reichstag Building in Berlin and the Pont Neuf Bridge in Paris, built a 25-mile fabric fence across northern California and strung a huge orange curtain across a Colorado valley.

Christo's and Jeanne-Claude's career (to date) culminated with "The Gates," which placed 7,503 vinyl gates, with free-flowing saffron nylon fabric panels, on 23 miles of Central Park walkways for 16 days in 2005.

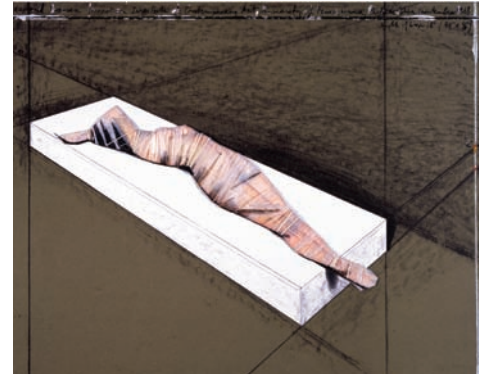
Considering themselves pure artists, Christo and Jeanne-Claude refused all sponsorship and corporate money and raised the millions needed to execute their artworks by selling Christo's original preparatory sketches, drawings and earlier works. Christo's beloved Jeanne-Claude died in November 2009 at age 74.

Switzer Gallery Director Vivian Spencer says the collection of works in this exhibition features the most integral aspects of the world-renowned artists' versatile careers.

Extremely varied in both content and technique, this collection includes more than 130 original numbered editions of prints and objects by Christo and photographic editions by Wolfgang Volz of works by Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

The Anna Lamar Switzer Distinguished Artist Series was established through a major gift from the Switzer and Reilly families to bring artists of national and international reputation to the Switzer Center for an exhibition and lecture open to students and the community.

Because of the legendary status of these artists, the process of securing an exhibition often takes more than two years of planning and negotiations.



Photos from top:
CHRISTO, WRAPPED NEW YORK TIMES,
JUNE 13, 1985. © CHRISTO 1985.

Christo and the late Jeanne-Claude at The
Gates, Central Park, New York City, 2005.
Photo by Wolfgang Volz.
© CHRISTO and JEANNE-CLAUDE, 2005.

CHRISTO and JEANNE-CLAUDE, RUNNING FENCE, SONOMA AND
MARIN COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, 1972-76. Photograph: Wolfgang
Volz © CHRISTO 1976.

CHRISTO, WRAPPED WOMAN, PROJECT FOR THE INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY ART, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA, 1997. © CHRISTO 1997.

CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE, VALLEY CURTAIN,
RIFLE, COLORADO, 1970-1972.
Photograph: Wolfgang Volz. © CHRISTO 1972

CHRISTO, WRAPPED BOTTLE, PROJECT FOR KIRCHBERG
SPÄTLESE, 2007. Hand-collaged lithograph, © CHRISTO 2007

CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE: PRINTS AND OBJECTS

Switzer Gallery Jan. 24 – March 25

Exhibition Opening:
Free and open to the public
Jan. 27, 6 – 8 p.m.

Artist Lecture: Feb. 12, 2 p.m.
Saenger Theatre

Tickets: \$52.50
call Ticketmaster, 850-438-2145

VIP Tickets: \$100; call the Foundation,
850-484-1560

VIP tickets include private reception with
Christo and book signing opportunity.

Melba Meyer Grant: Making a Difference in Early Childhood Education

Betty Persons gasped in delight when she heard that the Melba Bayers Meyer Charitable Trust had granted \$10,000 for equipment and materials needed in Pensacola State College's early childhood curriculum lab.

As coordinator of the Early Childhood program, Persons had been struggling for funds to improve the childhood curriculum lab that is an integral part of her students' preparation for becoming professionals in early childhood education.

Set up as a mock child care classroom, the lab provides virtual classroom experience for students on the path to becoming teachers in child care centers and Federal Head Start programs, or pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

"Thanks to the generous grant from the Meyer Charitable Trust, we are going to be able to update our early childhood curriculum lab," Persons says. "The current equipment and materials are original to the lab when it was first developed more than 25 years ago."

"This grant provides the means to reorganize and outfit the lab with the latest early childhood materials and technology."

In anticipation of new equipment, Persons' students are eagerly weeding out old and outdated supplies in the lab to make room for new computers and curriculum materials.

Students Christina Opena and Van Nguyen say they are especially excited about having computers in the child development lab for the first time.

"With computers, we will be able to use new software and stay up with childhood education advances going on in other colleges," Opena says.

Nguyen points out that updating equipment in the childhood curriculum lab will be especially useful in preparing to work with pre-school and kindergarten children. Enhancements to the lab will benefit students for years to come, Persons says. Throughout the program, students prepare manuals, portfolios and materials that will be vital to them in a child care workplace.

"Students will have an opportunity to explore, as well as develop, curriculum materials that they will be able to utilize in their teaching careers," Persons adds.

Maria Blet, administrator of the Melba Meyer Trust through Wells Fargo Bank, says the grant for Pensacola State's childhood curriculum lab is carrying out the legacy of Ms. Meyer.

"Melba Meyer was a business woman who had an interest in perpetuating education and one of the criteria for receiving the grant was that it benefits children," Blet said. "We are pleased that the grant is making a difference at Pensacola State College."

Foundation Board member Wendy Simon says she is glad the Foundation had the opportunity to apply for the grant.



Photos by Michelle Dycus

Above: Kelli Gomez, Jennette McCall, Christina Opena and Van Nguyen enjoy checking the usefulness of children's toys in the lab.



Above: Betty Persons (far left) and her students (from left) Jennette McCall, Christina Opena, Kelli Gomez and Van Nguyen examine books in the Child Development lab.



Betty Persons, Early Childhood Education Coordinator

"I am delighted that the grant request was approved and that these funds will help update the childhood curriculum lab and benefit the students and children in our community," says Simon, Trust & Fiduciary specialist with Wells Fargo Bank.

Celebrating the Arts

For the past decade, Gulf Breeze Arts, Inc. has funded scholarships for visual arts students at Pensacola State College with proceeds from the annual Gulf Breeze Celebrates the Arts Festival.

"This is a community effort to recognize arts and the important role of arts in education and the community," said Steve Ziemann.

Gathered for the presentation of a \$5,000 gift from this spring's festival are (from left) Steve Ziemann, Francie Grow, Tom Grow, President Ed Meadows, Pam Caddell and Krist Lien.



Remembering Ted Ciano, the Dean of Car City

All of Pensacola knew Ted Ciano, the gregarious “Dean of Car City,” for his larger-than-life persona and his decades of commercials for his Pensacola car dealerships.

But Mr. Ciano, who died on May 7, was also a quiet philanthropist and a generous benefactor to many Pensacola organizations, including Pensacola State College.

A self-professed workaholic, Mr. Ciano wanted to help others achieve their dreams.

In 2006, Mr. Ciano donated \$30,000 to the college to establish a scholarship for aspiring mechanics. The Cantonment Rotary Club Ted Ciano Vocational Endowed Scholarship was designated for at least two automotive technology students a year. The money donated by Mr. Ciano was matched by the state, resulting in a \$60,000 endowment.

In April, the automotive program was phased out and the scholarship was then designated for students in Mechanical Design and Fabrication. The scholarship awards up to \$1,500 per term to cover tuition, fees and books for students who demonstrate a financial need and have a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

Mr. Ciano’s wife Natalie Ciano said that it was just in his nature to give and help others.

“He did it because there are so many young people that love to be doing things with their hands and maybe don’t want to go to college,” she said. “It was to give them an opportunity.

When he was young they went to technical school, and he wanted to help others do it that way. Instead of going to a four year school, they are able to do what they really want to do.”

Mr. Ciano was born in Akron, Ohio, and was a first-generation American whose parents immigrated to the United States from Italy. He started his career as an automobile mechanic in Ohio and later moved to South Florida, where he eventually managed several automobile dealerships.

Mr. Ciano moved to Pensacola in 1968 and purchased a dealership which became Key Ford and eventually built it into one of the most successful Ford dealerships in the country. Mr. Ciano sold Key Ford in the year 2000 and shortly thereafter opened Ted Ciano’s Car, Truck



Natalie and Ted Ciano



Patrice Whitten and Ted Ciano

“If you want to be successful, you work at it. The opportunity is there, you take advantage of it, and you’re as good as you want to be.”

— Ted Ciano

and SUV Center in Car City where he was known as the Dean of Car City.

“He did work hard, and he was a self-made man,” said Natalie Ciano. “He just tried to help everybody.”

Mr. Ciano was a proponent of hard work, and said he wanted to give something back to Pensacola, a city that had been good to him. He was deeply involved in many civic and charitable organizations, raising funds for a diverse roster of charities for children’s causes and the Ciano Cancer Center in Gulf Breeze.

“You can make anything happen,” Mr. Ciano once said in an interview for BLAB-TV. “You can be successful, or you can be a failure. If you want to be successful, you work at it. The opportunity is there, you take advantage of it, and you’re as good as you want to be.”

Year-End Giving Opportunities

Annual Fund

Remember your gifts to the Pensacola State College Annual Fund are tax deductible. Annual Fund is the greatest needs fund at Pensacola State because it is unrestricted and allows the college the flexibility to meet emerging opportunities as they arise.

Universal Scholarship Fund

Of the many scholarships Pensacola State College provides, Universal Scholarship has the most open criteria and can immediately reach the most students. It often makes the difference in whether a struggling student perseveres in his or her studies.

Legacy Gifts

Planning your gift now will ensure that your intentions will be met and your promise to Pensacola State College students will live on.

For more information on giving opportunities, call Patrice Whitten at 850-484-1560 or click on www.pensacolastate.edu/foundation.

Universal Scholarships Hit the Mark

Ryan Jones was two days away from dropping out of college. In addition to his classes on the Pensacola State College Milton campus, he was working 36 hours a week to pay his own expenses and help his parents. His dad's wages from working on an oil rig barely covered household expenses and medical care for Jones' disabled mother.

Desperate, he went to Anthea Amos, dean of the Milton campus. "Two days before tuition was due, something was going to kick in but it failed," Jones said. "I told (Amos), 'I'm not going to be able to go to college.'"

Amos quickly set the wheels in motion and helped Jones secure a Universal Scholarship.

Universal Scholarships provide help for Escambia and Santa Rosa residents who fall through the cracks of traditional financial aid. The scholarships have the most open criteria and can reach students who do not qualify for high-GPA scholarships or who just missed the financial cut-off for federal aid.

"I begged FAFSA for help. I was about to move away from my parents so I could get some help," Jones said. While he had an A average at Jay High School, other factors affected his ability to secure merit-based scholarships. Just in time, the Universal Scholarship came through, covering his tuition and his books.

Jones's story is not unusual, said Tom Gilliam, interim vice president of Student Affairs. Some scholarship applicants are non-traditional students returning to school after a long break, while others have had a sudden change in circumstance, such as a job loss, that isn't yet reflected in their application for federal financial aid. In some cases, the students are homeless and can't

provide some of the documentation required for other forms of financial aid.

More than 500 students received Universal Scholarships this semester, and approximately \$220,000 in scholarship funds were awarded.

"You can't help but be touched by their stories," Gilliam said. "Of course some of them come in crying, but it's the ones who come in serious and composed and cry when they get the money that really get to you. It's a happy moment, and you are changing somebody's life."

Jones now serves as president of the Milton campus SGA and belongs to Phi Theta Kappa and the student volunteer council. He continues to work almost full-time in the Division of Forestry as a lifeguard and a park ranger, serve with the Barrineau Volunteer Fire Department and coach Little League Baseball. Jones plans to graduate in May with his associate's degree in criminal justice then transfer to Florida State or the University of West Florida. His end goal?

"Being with a detective investigations unit, or a narcotics unit, or with SWAT," he said. "I have a lot of dreams. I love helping people."



Ryan Jones



First place team: Rob Womack, Jay Ledbetter, Frank Barnett, Wayne Lowery, also first place individual.



Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department, third place team: Sheriff Ed Spooner, Eric Harris, Jack McLemore, David Tatman, Ken Carr



First place student team: Clint Ulery, Chris Lugg

CLAY SHOOT AIMS FOR UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to sponsors and participants, more than \$8,500 was raised for Universal Scholarships at the second annual Sporting Clay Tournament held at Shoal River Sporting Clays & Shooting Center in Crestview.

Clay Shoot Sponsors

Gold: Wal-Mart Escambia and Santa Rosa

Silver: Gulf Power, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department, Greenhut Construction Co., Inc.

Scorecard: Keegan Staffing

Station: Sight & Sun Eyeworks, Rexel Southern



Above: President Ed Meadows and Vincent Andry

Celebrating 10 Years of Student Success

Kenzier McIntyre knew the competition was fierce.

When the 2004 Pensacola State College graduate applied to the pharmacy program at Florida A&M, she knew there were only 200 spots available.

And she knew that the college's current students had the advantage when it came to admittance into the strenuous program. But she tried. And she succeeded.

McIntyre credits the education and support she received in the Robinson Honors Program with preparing her for the competitive program.

"I was already used to working hard, and the honors program put me at a higher level," she says. "I was making the grades, and the honors program looked good on my transcript when I got ready to transfer."

McIntyre is just one of hundreds of Pensacola State students who have found success through the Robinson Honors Program, an incredible course of study that for 10 years has offered academically talented students the opportunity to pursue an in-depth academic path, form a like-minded community and even travel the world.

The program is named for Sandra and Grover Robinson III, who were killed in a tragic accident in 2000. The couple had dedicated many years of service to the college including serving on numerous committees of the Foundation.

Their son, Grover Robinson IV, broker and president of Grover Robinson & Associates, and former Foundation board president, said the opportunity to get involved with the honors program was the perfect way to honor his parents.

"My mom had been involved in the (Pensacola State) board and my father was involved with PJC through being in the Florida legislature," Robinson said. "They both knew what the college means to Northwest Florida. It was a perfect fit."

Honors classes are more than just regular classes with additional work; they have an emphasis on individuality, originality and participative learning. The classes are designed to help students develop their analytical, creative and critical thinking skills. The program also offers a variety of opportunities for experiential learning.

The program started with the idea of creating a college within a college, according to Robinson Honors coordinator Charlie Schuler.

"It is about learning beyond the classroom," Schuler says.

Students participate in seminars, field trips, scholarships, and study abroad, such as summer sessions at Cambridge University in England and spring trips to Italy, in addition to regional trips to Atlanta, New Orleans and St. Petersburg.

Through the program, many students have been able to see Europe for the first time, Schuler said.

"It's one thing to look at slides and another thing to stand two feet away from the block of marble that Michelangelo was carving," Schuler said. "That is an education that can't be equaled."

Robinson said his parents valued the learning opportunities that could only be found through experience.

"My parents strongly felt that you learn about things by taking the time to travel and see how other people do things," said



Grover and Jill Robinson

Robinson, who traveled to Europe, Africa and the former Soviet Union with his parents. "The idea is that students who wouldn't have the opportunity to travel for whatever reason could have the opportunity through this program."

While honor students look forward to the annual trips, the travel is only part of the reason they want to join.

"We are offered courses that other students don't have available to them," said Daniel Dorman, a current honors sophomore studying history and public service. He has taken honors courses in African American History and European Literature. "Plus, we have this room (in Building 4), which gives us space to study undisturbed."

Kelci Pascoe, a sophomore majoring in English Literature, said the program is a foundation for her future studies and career.

"It's an opportunity to meet a lot of people and do some networking," she said. "It's a gateway to honors programs at other universities. It helps to open up those opportunities."

Both Pascoe and Dorman are planning for the program's spring trip to Italy.

Program graduate Leslie Ward, 2008, earned a scholarship to the prestigious Chicago Institute of Art.

"The (Pensacola State) teachers are terrific and love what they teach," said Ward, who was able to take summer courses at Cambridge University as part of her honors studies. "The small classes are an incredible asset, giving teachers time to get to know their students and help them grow."

McIntyre also credits the caring faculty for going the extra mile to ensure students' success.

"Dr. Schuler's willingness to help made a huge difference," she says. "He made sure I knew everything I needed to know to make that transition and to go on."

For Robinson, the ambition and success of the honors program students is the greatest tribute to his parents' memory.

"Their legacy was education and this region," he said. "What institution better marries education and this region than Pensacola State College."



Robinson Scholars tour Italy

Leslie Ward at Westminster Abbey



CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP



KAREN HENDRIX

Hats-off to Karen Hendrix, who recently received the Foundation's Distinguished Volunteer Award for her tireless efforts in chairing events that support the college's Annual Fund.

Congratulations to new officers and governors and appreciation to retiring governors for their service.

OFFICERS

- President, Pam Caddell
- Vice President, Margaret Stopp
- Secretary, Gary Sammons
- Treasurer, Tom Owens
- Immediate Past President, Grover Robinson IV
- Executive Director, Patrice S. Whitten

DIRECTORS

- Carolyn Davis
- Ralph Emerson
- Keith Gregory
- Diane Gup
- Karen Hendrix
- Kramer Litvak
- Ginger Moore
- Wendy Simon
- Gwen Snowden

NEW GOVERNORS

- Gary Sammons
- Kerry Ann Schultz
- Mark Smith
- Mike Werner

RETIRING GOVERNORS

- Rhette Anderson
- Dick Appleyard
- Pam Michelle Grier
- David Hawkins
- John Hutchinson
- Coy Irvin
- Jim Mitchell
- Audrey Morrison
- Ray Russenberger
- Charles Sherill Jr.
- Steve Timberlake

**Honoring Our Past,
Inspiring Our Future**

At the dawn of a new season in Pensacola State College's rich history, the Foundation celebrated past accomplishments, recognized distinguished alumni, and welcomed new officers at the Leadership Appreciation Dinner, July 15.

Sam and Philomena Marshall,
Kitty and Ed Meadows



Rebecca Farmer, Ann and Bill Hunt, Diane Johnson, Pam Hunt Caddell

"As one of six girls in the Hunt family that went through PJC, now Pensacola State, I am excited to be given the opportunity to serve as president of the Pensacola State Foundation."

— Pam Hunt Caddell, Foundation President, 2010-2012

Pam Caddell and
Grover Robinson IV

"Thank you — and keep up the good fight to continue to make our college a beacon of hope in Northwest Florida."

— Grover C. Robinson IV,
Foundation President,
2008-2010



Bob and Pat Regan,
Melanie Lee

Patrice Whitten,
Ed Chadbourne and
Caroline DeMaria



“We sincerely appreciate those who have shared their expertise, time and financial resources without which many of our college’s student services, programs and facilities would not exist.”

— Patrice Whitten, Foundation Executive Director

Joseph Von Bodungen,
Jill and Grover Robinson IV



Kitty Meadows,
Ginger Moore
and Rosemary Ropke



Taris Savell
and the Rev. Jack Gray

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Lifetime Achievement/Community Impact Award

Sandy Sansing is recognized all along the Gulf Coast for his successful automobile dealerships, but he is likely best known for his extensive community involvement. Sansing’s far-reaching commitment to the community includes sponsoring more than 55 little league baseball teams, partnering with WEAR-TV to support Communities Caring at Christmas and Cram the Van outreach projects, and providing on-going assistance to six local schools through Partners in Education, and the list goes on. He also serves on boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations. After graduating from Pensacola State in 1967, Sansing earned an accounting degree from the University of West Florida. Sandy and Peggy Sansing have been married 35 years and have two grown children.



Lifetime Achievement/National Impact Award

Bill Peters’ career as an engineer at NASA Space Centers in Houston and Huntsville began in 1964 and spanned the Gemini/Agema missions, Apollo lunar missions, Space Shuttle missions, and the International Space Station. During the 1970 Apollo 13 mishap, Peters played a key role in successfully salvaging the damaged spacecraft and ensuring the safe return of the three astronauts. For his efforts in this dramatic rescue, Peters received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award. He also received the coveted NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal. After graduating from Pensacola State in 1961, Peters earned an electrical engineering degree from the University of Florida. Bill and Nita Wilhite Peters have two grown children and four grandchildren and live in Harvest, Ala.



Early Career Achievement Award

Namrata Advani’s creative talent as an award-winning artist is matched only by her involvement in advancing graphic design opportunities for the local student and professional community. Since becoming art director for Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Advani has created a successful internship program, partnering with Pensacola State to provide a real world experience for two interns each semester. She serves on the college’s Graphic Design committee for advancing the curriculum to meet professional needs and volunteers to speak in classes and share advice on preparing portfolios. She also served as the AdFed Education Co-Chair, working primarily with students in the local chapter. After graduating from Pensacola State in 2003, Advani earned a graphic design degree from Savannah College of Art and Design.



UNSUNG HERO



LARRY BRACKEN
Executive Director – Government Affairs

The distance from Pensacola to Tallahassee is about 175 miles, but when the Legislature is in session, the interests of Pensacola State College are regularly being touted in the halls of the state Capitol.

Larry Bracken, executive director of Government Affairs, is entering his 23rd session with the Florida Legislature as a representative of the college. A self-described political junkie, Bracken enjoys the challenges that come with deciphering legislative bills and keeping the college's interests at the forefront.

"I am proud to have made every effort to support those legislative issues that benefit our students, faculty and staff," Bracken says.

Bracken also has helped develop an organizational structure for close to 20 state college lobbyists, who now work together as a team, under the auspices of the Florida State College Council of Presidents.

"I have served as chair of this group four different times," Bracken says. "I am also pleased to have been a part of our collaboration with our university colleagues, with whom we meet officially several times a session."

For his efforts on behalf of Florida's higher education, Bracken was twice nominated for the prestigious Marvin Swede Johnson Award. He also received the Communicator of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations in recognition of his leadership and contributions to community colleges.

Bracken says his interest in community colleges began thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean where he worked with the Governor of American Samoa at Pago Pago for almost five years. One of his duties included laying the groundwork that helped create the Community College of American Samoa.

While he has seen extensive changes in community colleges over the years, Bracken says Pensacola State College has continued to move forward due to strong leadership, making his efforts in Tallahassee more effective.

"I have been privileged to work with Presidents Ed Hartsell, Charles Atwell, Tom Delaino and now Ed Meadows," he said.

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Seniors



Entertainment from Bernice's Starrstep Dance Studio

Cake, entertainment and plenty of laughter were on the agenda as Pensacola State's Seniors Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in June. Seniors Club members enjoy free events at the college throughout the year, and they fund scholarships for students on all three campuses, with a portion of their dues.



President Ed Meadows and Seniors Club officers Bill Stimmell and Jim Manara

Nursing Program Marks Half-Century

The 50th anniversary pinning ceremony for Pensacola State's Associate Degree Nursing (RN) program was held May 6 with a reception for nursing program alumni immediately following.

Traveling the farthest to attend was Barbara Bundrick Hallbalde (Class of 1971) who now teaches nursing at a community college in Minnesota.

Pensacola State's two-year nursing program began in 1958 as a joint venture with Baptist Hospital. It was the first program of its kind in the southeast.



Photos by Michelle Dycus

New Name, New Era

Pensacola Junior College embraced a new era with a new name when it officially became Pensacola State College on July 1. The new name accompanies approval to offer two new work force bachelor's degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Administration and Supervision.

The long, careful journey to a new name and new programs includes approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges and the Florida State Board of Education.

Classes for the new bachelor's programs begin in January 2011 and are open to those who already hold an associate's degree.

Pensacola State College President Ed Meadows said the addition of work force bachelor's degrees allows the college to better meet the needs of Northwest Florida. The response from business and industry has been very positive.

Meadows also pointed out that the college remains committed to its existing programs.



"The college is one of the Top 100 community colleges in the nation in number of associate degrees awarded, and the newly named college will continue to offer associate degrees and certificate programs as it has for the past 62 years," he said.

Always Looking Up



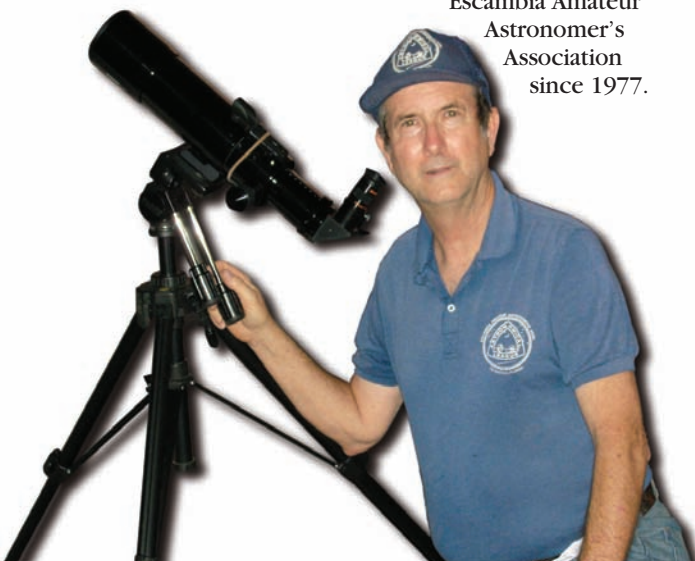
The night sky was sparkling when Pensacola State College astronomy professor Wayne Wooten won the national Astronomical League Award in June. This is the highest award in amateur astronomy.

"Wayne Wooten is truly an amazing individual and outstanding astronomy faculty member, and his lifetime commitment to astronomy and education deserves very special recognition," says Ed

Stout, Pensacola State department head of Physical Sciences.

During his 35 years at Pensacola State, Wooten has been "responsible for virtually all of the astronomy course development, including honors and online astronomy courses," Stout says.

Wooten also volunteers to judge local and state school science fairs and gives numerous teacher and student workshops on telescope building. While his list of astronomical achievements is extensive, Wooten is best known for leading sky interpretation sessions at Fort Pickens since 1976 and for sponsoring the local Escambia Amateur Astronomer's Association since 1977.



Digging in for Progress

With a thrust of shovels, Pensacola State College broke ground in July for its \$9.4 million South Santa Rosa Center that showcases the latest in green construction.

The initial phase of the project provides a two-story, multi-use facility that includes classrooms, science labs, computer lab, library, bookstore, faculty offices and conference room. It is expected to be open for classes in spring 2012.

The center will serve the area's military at Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, as well as provide Santa Rosa County high school students the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses.

Located on more than 100 acres, the center emphasizes green technology and green jobs. Construction encompasses Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards with sustainable elements including captured daylight and wetlands preservation to enhance the natural surroundings.

President Ed Meadows



Five Sisters Chef Has Classic Southern Style



Cecil and wife Pia Johnson at Five Sisters Blues Café

Chef Cecil Johnson had long dreamed of opening his own restaurant featuring classic Southern cuisine, great music, a place for family or a night on the town.

A restaurant that would pay tribute to his mother, Jeannette, and her four sisters — Cora, Sara, Dorothy, and Margaret — who managed to create great Southern food and indelible family memories in their tiny Nashville kitchen.

In May, Johnson opened Five Sisters Blues Café in the Belmont-DeVilliers neighborhood in downtown Pensacola. The restaurant has quickly earned a stellar reputation not only in Pensacola but across the Gulf Coast for its historic atmosphere, live blues and incomparable traditional Southern cuisine with kicks of Creole and Caribbean flair.

But it was a long time in the making.

“Five Sisters Blues Café is a concept I came up with in college,” Johnson says. “It changed off and on; I served in the Navy, got married, had kids, I was moving on.”

In 1996, after 26 years of travelling the world as an environmental scientist in the Navy, the Nashville native retired to Pensacola. He had offers to work for government contractors, but decided it

was time to pursue his lifelong dream — although he wasn’t sure where to get started. It was his daughter who told him about the culinary program at Pensacola State College.

“I thought Pensacola was a great place to raise kids — and open up a restaurant,” he says. “I felt there was lots of potential. When I found out about the culinary school, it was as if I was supposed to be here. I walked into the kitchen complex and felt like I was at home.

“I already had two degrees, so I didn’t have to do anything but cook,” says Johnson, who received his degree in natural sciences from Tennessee State University in Nashville in 1970 and received a second degree in meteorology while in the Navy.

Noting that he taught himself cooking skills prior to entering the culinary program, Johnson says, “What the culinary program added was the professional techniques needed to take it to the next level.” The program offered a learning environment that fully prepared Johnson for the real world of restaurants — from the kitchen to management.

“At certain levels we had mystery boxes and challenges and timed competitions,” he says. “It was comparable to Culinary Institute of America or Cordon Bleu — it’s all about how you apply yourself.

“I saved a lot of time,” he adds. “I thought I might have to go to South Florida or Northeast to go to school. I was very happy to hear that there was a culinary school right here.”

After graduation, Johnson worked in some of Pensacola’s favorite restaurants



The Café at 421 W. Belmont in the Belmont-DeVilliers neighborhood

Photos Courtesy
Five Sisters Blues Café

and had a part in launching some of the city's most respected venues: Skopelo's, The Yacht, Gauthier's and The Fish House.

Chef Jim O'Brien, owner of O'Briens Bistro, was one of Johnson's instructors at the college and brought him on board at O'Briens when the restaurant opened.

"I thought of him as my right-hand man," says O'Brien, who taught in the culinary program for several years before and during the launch of O'Briens Bistro. "He was a student of mine in a couple different classes, and we hit it off pretty well, so when I thought about opening my own place, I thought of him to help me get it up and running."

"What he's got going has always been his dream," O'Brien says. "He's a good guy, and I'm happy that things have come full circle for him."

Johnson took over the downtown breakfast spot formerly known as the Steak and Egg in 2002 and re-opened it as his own creation, CJ's Kitchen and Grille.



"It was worth what was done to get that ambience," he says.

And the traditional Southern atmosphere is reflected in the restaurant's attitude and menu.

"I'm from the South, so it's all about fried chicken, mac and cheese and cornbread, and people are responding to that," Johnson says. "We want to put the authentic flavors back in the Southern food, like you are sitting at grandma's table on Sunday."

"We've had success with what we have done so far. We just stay true to the Southern flavors and food."

"What the culinary program added was the professional techniques needed to take it to the next level."

— Cecil Johnson

"It was a breakfast place, and a diner," he said. "I ran CJ's for eight years, so I got a lot of experience under my belt before I took on Five Sisters."

He was contemplating retirement when the opportunity to open Five Sisters came knocking. The restaurant is part of the ongoing revival of the historic Belmont-DeVilliers neighborhood.

Johnson was initially skeptical about the plan, "but when I came up here, something about the old building caught me," he says.

The historic 103-year old brick building had an interesting story and good bones.

It had been home to a saloon, a grocery store and in more recent history Gussie's Record Shop and a wig shop. The second floor had been home to WBOP, the first black AM radio station in Northwest Florida. Although the building was in desperate disrepair, it spoke to Johnson.

"It would have been cheaper to knock it down and start over," he says, laughing. "But it has soul."

The exposed brick walls and tall windows overlooking the street give the restaurant a distinctly New Orleans flavor.



ALUMNI PROFILE



CECIL JOHNSON

EDUCATION:

Tennessee State University,
B.S. 1970

Pensacola State College,
A.S. 1998

OCCUPATION:

U.S. Navy (retired)

Five Sisters Blues Café,
owner and chef

FAMILY:

Wife: Pia

Daughters: Jamie and Jessica

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:

"The culinary program was fantastic. I loved it. There was a great group there, and it was a great experience."

Saying Thanks with Tasty Tidbits

Culinary Arts students donned their creative chef hats to prepare delicious delicacies, elaborate table settings and edible centerpieces for President's Circle members at the annual Garde Manger (gard mon zha). The event takes its name from the highly trained keepers of cold food in castles and manors in pre-Revolutionary France.

President's Circle member Joe Webb enjoyed the tasty spread and says he is happy to say "yes" when asked to support Pensacola State College's Foundation.

"With two sons graduating from Pensacola State in 1994 and 1997, and receiving my own degree from Pensacola State at the age of 61 in 2009, my family has a very good appreciation for the value a PSC education provides," Webb adds.

"For today's students, the future will be more challenging than ever with new and evolving technologies. Equipping young men and women with knowledge, experience and a degree from Pensacola State College will provide them with a competitive advantage in achieving their dreams and goals."

Ed Chadbourne and Mary Carolyn Rentz



Ed Meadows, Jan R. Miller and culinary student Zachary Rigel



Jason Hurst and Carol Carlan



Joe Webb



Helen Brown-Galloway

Photos by Michelle Dycus



Gwen Snowden, Ralph Emerson and culinary student Tamara Carder



LEADING THE WAY



GINGER MOORE
Annual Fund Chair

"This special culinary event is a way of thanking our President's Circle members for their support and gifts to the Annual Fund. It also is an opportunity to recognize personal achievements and enjoy the delectable presentations by the students who are enrolled in our outstanding culinary program.

"Membership in the President's Circle provides funds for critical needs used to cover expenses of attending college when no other funding is available — just another way of investing in the future of our students."

President's Circle Honor Roll of Donors

We salute our President's Circle members* for investing in the future of our students through their gifts to the Pensacola State College Annual Fund.

*Membership list is current through Oct. 21, 2010.

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*From
the desk of*

Patrice Whitten



In July this year we changed our name to Pensacola State College to reflect the expanding mission of the college as we begin offering baccalaureate degrees in January 2011. And, appropriately, the Foundation became Pensacola State College Foundation.

However, one important thing did not change — we remain good stewards of your philanthropic donations.

Recently, Pensacola State College Foundation made the national Top 30 Community College Endowments list published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Our Foundation ranked #18 in the Top 30 in the nation and was one of only three colleges in the Top 18 that showed an increase in the past year.

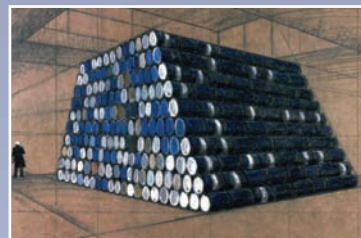
Thanks to the generosity of area donors, more than 2,200 students received tuition assistance during the past year. Each dollar invested here improves lives, builds futures and continues to pay great dividends.

As you consider making year-end donations, we hope you will give the gift of education through the Pensacola State College Foundation.

SAVE THE DATES

CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE Prints and Objects

Switzer Gallery Exhibition
Jan. 24 – March 25
Artist Lecture
Feb. 12, 2 p.m.
Saenger Theatre
(See story on page 3)



CHRISTO, THE MASTABA, 1,240 OIL BARRELS, PROJECT FOR THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, PHILADELPHIA, 1968 – 1998. Grain lithograph and silkscreen.
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Call 850-484-1560 or email foundation@pensacolastate.edu.

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